



## Thank you to the 2017 LBSS PTSA All Night Grad Party Supporters!

The Lake Braddock Senior Class of 2017 and their families would like to thank the following businesses, organizations and individuals for their support of the PTSA-sponsored alcohol- and drug-free All Night Graduation Celebration which was held on June 19th, 2017, at the Audrey Moore RECenter at Wakefield Park. We are grateful for their generous contributions and commitment to the young people of our community. Please support these organizations that invest in the success of Lake Braddock Secondary School.

## Friends of the Class (\$1-49)

Andy Porth Ashley Bustamante Ashely Thompson

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Burke Veterinary Clinic

Fairfax County Park Authority Fairfax County Police Department

Mark Allen Flickinger South Run Regency

Village Vet Wegmans

We'd like to thank the faculty and staff of LBSS and especially the LBSS PTSA for supporting the All Night Graduation Celebration. A huge thank you to our volunteers: the parents, friends and relatives of the Classes of 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020.

We would also like to extend a special thank you to the Burke Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department and the Fairfax County Police for their vital presence at our party. Finally, we'd like to thank the staff of the Audrey Moore RECenter for all their help in making the night run smoothly.

Make plans now to support our 2018 party on June 12th, 2018.



The lawn of the Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton was packed with families setting up their blankets and lawn chairs before the fireworks began on Saturday, July 1 for the Independence Day Celebration.



As the band Shane Gamble played on, children danced in an impromptu kiddie mosh pit in front of the stage at the Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton.

PHOTOS BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

# Workhouse Arts Center Hosts Independence Day Celebration

he crowds came out to the Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton for its Independence Day Celebration, which was held on Saturday, July 1. Families set up their own picnics with blankets and lawn chairs on the campus green in the 90-degree heat. In addition to the fireworks, there was food, craft beer and wine, and live music provided by Shane Gamble. To beat the heat, visitors could duck into the art exhibits in the air-conditioned artist's studios at the former Lorton Prison.

-STEVE HIBBARD



The band Shane Gamble performs under the tent at the Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton before the fireworks begin.



Twin brothers Ethan and Logan Miller, 9, of Lorton exercise on the rowing machines in the Art of Movement studio.



Parker Sanford, 6, and his sister Mackenzie, 9, of Fairfax Station enjoy ice cream sundaes at the Workhouse Ceramics Gallery W8 during the Independence Day Celebration at the Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton.



Dave Dunyak of Fairfax Station and Marcia Noca of Fairfax admire the art exhibit called "Walk Right In" at the Arches Gallery W9 at the Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton.



Mikayla, Leonardo, and Jayden Jolley of Lorton enjoy pizza while waiting for the fireworks to begin at the Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton.



"Walk Right In" at the Arches Gallery W9 at the Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton.

Visitors check out the exhibits at the Workhouse Prison Museum at the Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton.

## News



The three garden beds are all set up at Lorton Community Action Center (LCAC).



Lorton and Fort Belvoir community members came down to help construct the two garden beds.

# New Garden Beds Blossom Lorton Community Action Center at two garden beds with help of grants.

**Lorton Community Action Center adds** 

By Basma Humadi The Connection

ne year ago, Stephanie Hart, Director of Food and Nutrition at the Lorton Community Action Center (LCAC), pitched an idea to Executive Director at LCAC, Linda Patterson: let's build a garden.

The care, growth and produce from the garden could then be used for nutrition education programs available for children and adults at the community center.

With the help of Matthew Rosenthal, a youth working on his mitzvah project for Temple B'nai Shalom synagogue in Northern Virginia, Hart and Rosenthal began working together to raise money and construct LCAC's first garden bed. After seeing its success, they knew it was time to build a few more.

"Stephanie and I talked and we wanted to expand it because we knew one bed really wasn't enough," Patterson said.

From there, Patterson wrote a grant proposal and with the help of the Junior League of Northern Virginia and 495 and 95 Express Lanes, Transurban Community Grant Program, LCAC was able to get the ball rolling to set up two new garden beds for this summer.

"When the grant program started [in about 2010], we wanted a way that we could support a number of organizations to really improve the community which we operate," said spokesperson for Transurban, Michael McGurk.

"For this most recent grant for the Lorton Community Action Center, we really like ... that [it] tries to educate people on a healthy eating initiative that they're working on and provide food to needy families as well."

The garden beds will be used for bearing produce for three out of four seasons with a mix of fruits and vegetables that change



Some of the produce at LCAC begins to grow.

squash, pumpkins, eggplants, onions, cau-

plant one [season], you have to plant all

three seasons because the nutrients from

the plants and soil does better if you just

Children help the growth of the garden

by watering the plants and adults assist as

well to harvest and weed. The harvests from

"For the gardens to be successful you can't

liflowers, among others.

keep planting," Patterson said.

the produce is used in LCAC's summer lunch program for children and nutrition classes where adults are able to learn to cook dif-

"Folks really like this and the recipes we utilize in class many times can be made with the things they receive in our food pantry," Anderson said. "They're not spending extra funds to be able to have helpful meals. This is the stuff we target to have on hand every week for the 200 plus families we serve."

LCAC partnered with the Junior League of Northern Virginia, an all woman's volunteer group that aims to promote volunteerism and improve the community. in order to receive a grant to support the funds for the garden bed. The pair originally partnered together to help build the first garden bed, and after that proved successful, Patterson decided to reach out again. "We really come to LCAC with all of our tools and all of our members and it's one of our most favorite partnerships because we are able to do so many different things with them," said Celia Anderson, President-elect at Junior League of Northern Virginia. "They're very open to us coming and making us part of their home."

Two youths from the Lorton community help assemble one of the garden beds. seasonally. Some of the produce LCAC is planting this summer include cabbage, tomatoes, brussel sprouts, and several kinds of peppers. Coming soon in the fall are: ferent recipes like crusted chicken.

4 SAIRFAX STATION/CLIFTON/LORTON CONNECTION JULY 6-12, 2017

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

## News

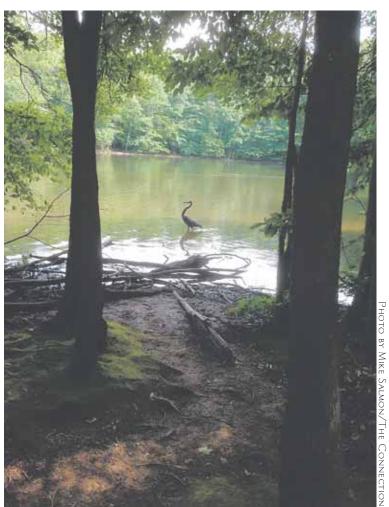
## Burke Girl Fatally Struck by Train

Detectives are investigating the death of a 13-year-old girl who was fatally struck by a train June 28, around 3 p.m. The victim has been identified as Reyhan Safoglu, of Burke. She was hiking in the area of Bull Run Bridge, near Clifton, with her 13-year-old cousin and 21-year-old brother.

According to the police, the two teens were walking on the bridge when a train approached. The boy was able to get out of the way; unfortunately, the girl could not get off the tracks and was struck.

The fire department responded and pronounced her dead at the scene. The detectives responded to investigate and are working closely with family, public safety partners in Manassas Park and the railway and railroad companies. The victim was a student at Lake Braddock Secondary School.

The investigation is ongoing and detectives are working closely with Reyhan's family. School Liaison Commander is also working with the family and school officials to provide support, as needed.



### Great Blue Heron at Burke Lake

At Burke Lake, this Great Blue Heron stalks minnows along the shoreline as the picnic tables filled up by July 4 revelers for this year's Independence Day.

### BULLETIN BOARD

Send notes to the Connection at connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/ or call 703-778-9416. The deadline for submissions is the Friday prior to publication. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke serves those 50 and older who no longer drive. Volunteer drivers are needed for trips (Monday-Friday) to medical appointments and companion shopping within the Fairfax/Burke area. Office workers are needed to answer phones in the SCFB office (Monday-Friday) to match drivers and those who need rides. Call 703-323-4788.

### THROUGH AUG. 25

**Summer Lunches.** The Fairfax County Public Schools Office of Food and Nutrition Services will be hosting the FEEDS (Food for Every Child to Eat During Summer) BBQ program, a USDA-funded program is free to all children 18 years and under and \$2 for adults. There is no registration involved, and open to everyone. Meal service will be provided at the following sites Monday-Friday, 11:30-1 p.m. No service on July 3 and 4. In the Springfield area, FEEDS is offered at the following schools:

- Springfield Gardens Apartments, 6116 Cumberland Ave.
- Springfield Square Apartments, 7000 Rhoden Court, starts at noon
- Chelsea Square Apartments, 5734 Backlick Road, starts at noon

## Great Harvest Bread Company Supports Animal Shelter

Jeffrey Connelly, owner of Great Harvest Bread Company's Burke and Lorton stores, presents Celia Flye, Executive **Director for Friends of** the Fairfax County Animal Shelter, a check for \$646. The donation was collected from Connelly's **Easter promotion when** \$2 from each Honey Bunny sold was put aside to benefit the Friends of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter.



## CAPE COD REMODELED HOME TOUR

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# **OPINION**

# Send in Pet Photos Now

he Pet Connection, a twice-yearly special edition, will publish the last week of July, and photos and sto-ries of your pets with you and your family should be submitted by July 20.

We invite you to send us stories about your pets, photos of you and your family with your cats, dogs, llamas, alpacas, ponies, hamsters, snakes, lizards, frogs, rabbits, or whatever other creatures EDITORIAL share your life with you.

Tell us the story of a special bond between a child and a dog, the story of how you came to adopt your pet, or examples of amazing feats of your creatures.

Do you volunteer at an animal shelter or therapeutic riding center or take your pet to visit people in a nursing home? Does your business have a pet? Is your business about pets? Have you helped to train an assistance dog? Do you or someone in your family depend on an assistance dog?

Or take this opportunity to memorialize a beloved pet you have lost.

Just a cute photo is fine too. Our favorite pictures include both pets and humans.

Please tell us a little bit about your creature, identify everyone in the photo, give a

> brief description what is happening in the photo, and include address and phone number (we will not publish your address or phone number, just

your town name).

Email to editors@connectionnewspapers.com or submit online at

www.connectionnewspapers.com/pets. For advertising information, email sales@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9431.



## Ryane and Charlie

Pet Connection, July 2016: Ryane Devlin of Clifton and her best canine friend Charlotte - "Charlie" catching a few Z's. Charlie will be one year old in late August. She is very friendly and energetic.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Withholding Funds Hurts WMATA

To the Editor:

The following open letter was addressed to Secretary U.S. Department of Transportation. Dear Secretary Chao,

As representatives of public transit customers in the Commonwealth of Virginia, we write to express our concerns regarding the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Feb. 10, 2017 decision to withhold federal transit grant money in response to incomplete efforts to establish a new State Safety Oversight Program (SSOP) for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA).

On Feb. 8, 2016, the FTA gave notice that the Metropolitan Safety Commission (MSC), a new SSOP to succeed WMATA's Tri-State Oversight Commission, must be in place and certified by the FTA on or before Feb. 9, 2017. On Feb. 10, 2017, with no new SSOP certified, the FTA announced it would exercise its authority to withhold five percent of federal funds authorized in fiscal year 2017 under the Urbanized Area Apportionments Program (49 U.S.C. 5307). The initial withholding equated to \$8.9 million, and is expected to total \$15 million if the withholding continues to the end of the current fiscal year. This withholding will not the General Assembly of Maryland. just impact funding for WMATA, but for broader infrastructure maintenance throughout Virginia, Maryland, and Washington, D.C.

The decision to withhold these federal funds has created significant uncertainty amongst state

budget planning and stability. Should the withholding of funds continue throughout the remainder of the fiscal year, the governments and their transit systems will be faced with a number of difficult decisions about the manner in which they allocate their limited resources. Under a worst-case scenario, they would be forced to make cuts to good repair efforts or reduce service to their respective communities, either of which would be harmful to our constituents. We agree safety must be a top priority, but eliminating funding for infrastructure repair would directly contradict a SSOP's stated

Given the FTA must engage in this process with 29 other transit agencies nationwide by 2019, we appreciate the complexity of the issues that were considered in making the decision to withhold these funds. However, we must emphasize — as many of us have expressed previously either directly to you, your predecessor, or the FTA — that the timing of both the notice and the deadline set by FTA were arbitrary in that there seemed to be little or no consideration of the legislative calendars of the Virginia General Assembly or

The FTA timetable effectively ave Virginia and Maryland less than one full legislative session to negotiate amongst each other and the District, draft the proposal, navigate it through the respective lawmaking bodies, and sign it into and local governments in terms of law. The unreasonable require-

ments FTA put forth were not simply for the SSOP to have a legal foundation by the February 2017 deadline, but to have the program fully certified by FTA, which necessitates months of work after passing legislation, including, but not limited to, appointing commissioners, hiring staff, and leasing office space. We are therefore led to believe that FTA either set their requirements without providing fair consideration to the unique institutional challenges that exist within the jurisdictions, or the FTA set them with a deadline so unrealistic that failure was unavoid-

Given the concerns we have raised in this letter regarding FTA's shortsighted approach to this matter, and in light of the demonstrated progress which has been made, we respectfully request that your office work with the FTA to explore a compromise in which part of these withheld funds can be released as a show of good faith, as the jurisdictions continue their work to construct a stable SSOP. Lending further justification for this request is the real progress that has been made with respect to organizing the MSC. At the time this is written:

- ❖ Virginia, Maryland, and the District (the jurisdictions) have each enacted legislation to enter into an interstate compact to form
- The jurisdictions have submitted a detailed draft certification plan to FTA for review (though FTA has not yet provided formal

feedback on the plan);

- ❖ Joint resolutions have been introduced in both the House of Representatives and the Senate to grant Congressional approval to the MSC compact:
- \* The Senate has passed its version of the joint resolution;
- \* The House Judiciary Committee, which has sole jurisdiction over the joint resolution, has ordered the House's parallel version of the resolution to be reported favorably to the full House; and
- ❖ We are requesting that the measure be taken up for consideration as soon as possible.

We appreciate the FTA's important safety work, especially its temporary safety oversight role with respect to WMATA. Without FTA's diligence, more harm may have come to WMATA's customers. But we must find an equitable solution to this matter.

We look forward to partnering with you, Madam Secretary, as well as the FTA to ensure safety remains the top priority in all transit systems and that reforms are made to accomplish a transit agency that provides safe, reliable service to our constituents. We appreciate your thoughtful consideration of this request.

U.S. Rep. Barbara Comstock U.S. Rep. Bob Goodlatte, U.S. Rep. Robert J. Wittman, U.S. Rep. Scott Taylor, U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine, and U.S. Sen. Mark R. Warner



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## Calendar

Send entertainment notes to the Connection at connectionnewspapers.com/ Calendar/ or call 703-778-9416. The deadline is the Friday prior to the next paper's publication at noon. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

### **ONGOING**

FUN-Exercise Thursdays, noon-12:50 p.m. Grace Presbyterian Church Family Room, 7434 Bath St., Springfield. Inova certified exercise instructor leads a moderate level exercise class with music and current events conversation. Muscle, Balance, Strength Training using stretch bands and weights both standing and seated exercises. Instructor donation is \$5. moorefitt@yahoo.com or 703-499-6133.

### **English Conversation Groups**

weekly at George Mason, Burke Centre, and Lorton Libraries Practice and improve your English. Day and start times vary. Visit: va.evanced.info/fairfaxcounty/lib/ eventcalendar.asp

### **Kingstowne Farmers Market**

opens. 4-7 p.m. every Friday through Oct. 27, at Kingstowne Giant Parking Lot, 5870 Kingstowne Center, Alexandria. Freshly picked, producer-only vegetables and fruit, from-scratch bread (including gluten free), baked goods, kettle corn, salsa, hummus, cake pops, fruit popsicles, and ice cream. Email Chelsea.roseberry@fairfaxcounty.gov or call 703-642-0128 for more.

### **SATURDAY/JULY 8**

Historic School Bus Tour. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Tour will begin at Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, 10209 Main St., Fairfax. "Bus Tour to Three Historic Fairfax County Public

Schools." Bring a bag lunch and closed drink. \$45/county residents, \$47 non-residents. Register at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/ parktakes. Code: 3163926301

Community Blood Drive. 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at Patriot Harley-Davidson, 9739 Fairfax Boulevard in Fairfax. Donors should allow one hour for the process, and each will receive a complimentary Super Donor t-shirt courtesy of Inova Blood Donor Services. Visit inova.org/donateblood using sponsor code 5255 or call 703-352-5400.

Lesson Zero Concert. 8-midnight at The Epicure Café, 11104 Lee Highway, Fairfax. This band is from Springfield. Free. Visit www.reverbnation.com/lessonzero

### SUNDAY/JULY 9

### **Mason Family on Roosevelt**

**Island.** 2 p.m. at the Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, 10209 Main St., Fairfax. Bradley Krueger, a National Park Service Cultural Resources Specialist for the George Washington Memorial Parkway, will tell the little-known history of George Mason's family on the island. Free. Call 703- 385-8414 for more

Vacation Bible School. 9 a.m.-noon at Historic Pohick Church, 9301 Richmond Highway, Lorton. For 3year-olds through 5th-grade. Free. Call 703-339-6572 or visit www.pohick.org for more.

### WEDNESDAY/JULY 12

Fashions and Tea. 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at Springfield Golf & Country Club, 8301 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. Springfield Christian Women Connection sponsoring

fashion consultant, Dana Elmini, exploring the notion of "Simply Comfortable." In addition Gail Alicia will speak about "Surviving the Grand Canyons of Life." \$20. Call 703-922 6438, 703-913-9844 or email SpringWmConn@yahoo.com

### THURSDAY/JULY 13

Draw/Paint Live Model. 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at Old Town Hall, 3990 University Drive, Fairfax. A clothed model will pose for artists to draw or paint for three hours at the Fairfax Art League's Art&Lunch. Bring art supplies and lunch or buy at local restaurants. Call 703-385-7858 for

more. **Yoga.** 7-9 p.m. at Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Wear comfortable clothes and bring a mat, weather permitting. Free. Visit www.fairfaxartleague.net or call 703-587-9481 for more.

**Summer Under the Stars Concert.** 7:30 p.m. Veterans Amphitheater (adjacent to City Hall), 10455 Armstrong St., Fairfax. Children's Concert - City of Fairfax Band. Visit www.fairfaxband.org or call 703-

### **JULY 13-15**

385-7855 for more.

Fairfax Musical. 7 p.m. at Lorton Workhouse Art Center, 9518 Workhouse Road, Lorton. The Class Act Players Theatre Company presents "The Complete History of Fairfax: The Musical" as a part of Fairfax County's 275th anniversary celebration. Visit www.workhousearts.org for more.

### SUNDAY/JULY 16

Battle of the Bands. 3-8 p.m. at Lakeside Park/Royal Lake, 5216 Pommeroy Drive, Fairfax. Braddock

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CLASS ACT THEATRE COMPA

"The Complete History of Fairfax (The Musical)" cast, from left: Christopher McDonnell, Hillary Leersnyder, Jesse Pollack, and Alex Poirier.

### Fairfax History As a Musical

"The Complete History of Fairfax (The Musical)" will be performed at two Fairfax County venues: the James Lee Community Center Theater and the

- ❖ "The Complete History of Fairfax (The Musical)" at James Lee Community Center Theatre, 2855 Annandale Road #101, Falls Church. Performances, July 6, 7 and 8, 2017 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, matinee, July 8, 2017, at 2 p.m. Tickets: \$10. Tickets www.eventbrite.com/e/the-completehistory-of-fairfax-the-musical-tickets-33287877939available at the door or
- ❖ "The Complete History of Fairfax (The Musical)" at the Workhouse Arts Center. 9518 Workhouse Road, Lorton. Performances July 13, 14 and 15, 2017, at 7 p.m. Tickets: \$12. Call 703-584-2900 or visit www.workhousearts.org.

District's Battle of the Bands. Ten bands, three food trucks. Music neighbors and food. If it rains, it's cancelled. Email Linda.Bufano@fairfaxcounty.gov or call 703-425-9300 for more.

THURSDAY/JULY 20

Lunch N' Life. noon-2 p.m. at Burke Presbyterian Church, 5690 Oak Leather Drive, Burke. The guest presenter will be Elizabeth Gray, Esq., speaking on legal issues for older adults. \$10. Sponsored by Shepherd's Center. Call 703-273-5730 or see www.scfbva.org for more.

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## WELLBEING

## Meditation as Medicine

## Practice linked to improvements in health.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

n her dimly lit basement in Great Falls, Mary Beth Kogod sounds a meditation bell that echoes through the room. The 12 people sitting on cushions in a circle around her close their eyes and listen to the gentle sounds of her voice.

"If your mind begins to wander, gently guide it back to the sound of my voice," said Kogod, as she leads the group in a mindfulness meditation session.

The practice of meditating to aid with ills running the gamut from stress and anxiety to pain and depression is on the rise. According to the National Institutes of Health (NIH), 18 million people practiced some form of meditation in 2015, and the number of Americans who engage in the practice has doubled over the last 15 years.

"We have more smartphones and other electronics that consume us and give us constant access to stressful events we see on the news," said Kate Love, who runs the Open Mind-Open Heart meditation group in Bethesda. "There is the expectation that we need to be available and informed all the time. This expecta-

SEE MEDITATION, PAGE 10



Kate Love of the Open Mind-Open Heart meditation group in Bethesda says that meditation can help reduce stress.

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by Northern Virginia Magazine options including oral sedation and nitrous oxide (sleep dentistry) and are dedicated to easing all aspects of your dental experience.

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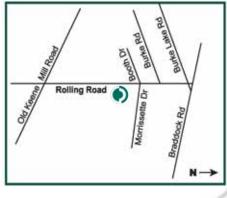
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O\_ .....

## PEOPLE

## Massage Envy Burke Employees Named Regional Esthetician and Therapist of the Year

assage Envy, provider of therapeutic massage and skincare services, has named Beysith Novella as a Regional Esthetician of the Year and Megan Santos as a Regional Therapist of the Year. Both are of the Massage Envy Burke franchised lo-

From a staff of more than 25,000 professional therapists and estheticians collectively employed across the franchise network, winners were recognized for their high levels of professionalism, exceptional client care and consistently upholding the tenets of therapeutic touch.

Novella has been a member of the Burke team for two years. She is the location's lead esthetician, helping train and mentor other estheticians, while taking great care of clients. Santos has been a dedicated member of the Burke team for nine years. As lead therapist, she helps train and mentor other massage therapists, while taking care of clients.

Henry Kim and Stephen Vereb, Massage Envy Regional Multi-Unit Franchise Owners, said about Novella and Santos, "Their ap-

proach to client care represents the gold-standard and we are pleased that this has been acknowledged at the national level.'

For more information, visit www.massageenvy.com



**Beysith Novella** 



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

**Megan Santos** 

## Give Blood, Save Lives

he American Red Cross is facing a critical blood shortage and is issuing an emergency call for eligible blood and platelet donors of all blood types to give now and help save lives. Blood donations have fallen short of expectations for the past two months, resulting in about 61,000 fewer donations than needed and causing a significant drawdown of the Red Cross blood supply. The shortfall is the equivalent of the Red Cross not collecting any blood donations for more than four days. "It's crucial that people donate now to meet the needs of patients every day and to be prepared for emergencies that require significant volumes of donated blood," said Nick Gehrig, communications director, Red Cross Blood Services. "Every day, blood and platelet donors can help save lives, and right now these heroes are needed to give as soon as possible." To schedule an appointment to donate, use the free Blood Donor App, visit rise Valley Dr redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

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7/10/2017: 2 p.m. - 7 p.m., St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, 432 Van

Reston

7/5/2017: 3 p.m. - 8 p.m., St Thomas a Becket RCC, 1421 Wiehle Ave 7/12/2017: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Reston Library, 11925 Bowman

7/14/2017: 8 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., U.S. Geological Survey, 12201 Sun-

For more information, visit redcross.org cruzrojaamericana.org, or visit us on Twitter at @RedCross.



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## Not An **Auto-Matic Fix**



### By KENNETH B. LOURIE

But a fix nonetheless, of our 17-year-old backup car, a 2000 model year Honda Accord. On balance, since inheriting it from mother in 2008, it has been an exceptionally reliable and reasonably-priced second car and one which I'm happy to own. I drive it approximately 7,000 miles per year and not over long stretches. In effect, it is our local car. And considering there is no monthly car payment and the insurance/maintenance costs are low, as a non-car guy who only wants to get from point "A" to point "B", I can live with it "Big time," to quote our current President.

Now I'm at a bit of a crossroads, however. (And not that this is a "cancer" column per se, but it is a column affected by yours truly being a cancer "diagnosee.") I am dropping the car off at my local mechanic, Tony, later today because there are some warning signs and idiot lights suggesting I do so. First, the infamous "check engine" light is illuminated. Its yellow which Tony said is not as bad/urgent as if it were red. Nevertheless, to turn it off/fix the underlying problem (since it doesn't appear to be the gas cap) will likely cost hundreds. The preliminary assessment is that the fault is emission related.

The second area of concern is temperature, specifically how poorly my car's air conditioner is cooling and how loud the fan controlling it is when engaged even when one/low is selected. Adding insult to summertime discomfort, the passenger-side window doesn't slide down, either when using its own power-window switch or the master control on the driver's side. To summarize, I have one window (the driver' side) that can go down and extremely limited air conditioning. I wouldn't say it's hot in the car, but I'm sure any normal person would. Having had previous conversations with Tony about these repairs, I know the dollars needed to right these wrongs might not make any sense given the age and mileage on the car and the diagnosis of its owner. Yet here I am trying think long term, not cancer term. What to do?

I don't want to be miserable driving the Honda anymore (and it is me who's driving it). But I only need the air conditioning for another six to eight weeks or so - and not every day, and rarely at night. I do need to open the windows though for eight to 10 months, not so much during the winter and rarely on cold nights, but opportunities do present themselves. Spending the hundreds/possibly thousands of dollars for all repairs now however might make me miserable, too. The question persists then for any of us who own/want to maintain older cars: when are you throwing good money after bad? Ergo: when is enough, enough? (I sound like Carrie Bradshaw from "Sex and the City.")

Would I be better off spending the repair money on a newer car and enjoy whatever warranty protection I could muster and thus minimize future repair bills or not? The only problem with buying that 'newer car: it's likely (heck, there's no 'likely' about it) there will be a monthly car payment which at present I do not have, and in so having one will definitely make me miserable.

Factor in my health status and I can't stop asking myself: do I solve a problem that affects the quality of my life today at the expense of tomorrow (pun intended) or do I plan/repair for tomorrow and suffer the consequences of having done

As a stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer patient originally characterized by my oncologist as "terminal" and given a "13-month to twoyear" prognosis to boot back in late Feb., 2009, I've always tried to live my life and make decisions as if I had a future beyond what I was told.

And for the past eight years and four months, I have pretty consistently maintained that approach. Still, the longer I live, the more my underlying medical diagnosis impacts my thinking/judgment. Unfortunately, worlds sometimes collide and reality is up for grabs. And occasionally decisions are made in a "bizarro" kind of way where topsy is turvy and vice versa. Welcome to

Kenny Lourie is an Advertising Representative for The Potomac Almanac & The Connection Newspapers.



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## WELLBEING

# Meditation As Medicine

From Page 8

tion wasn't in place 10 years ago."

Love says that while scientific research to back up these claims is limited, it is growing. For example, a study funded by the National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health at NIH shows that mindfulness practices have a positive impact on insomnia.

Meditation usually entails sitting relatively still and quiet, as in Kogod's meditation session, and focusing on one thing, such as a sound, an image or one's own breath.

"I teach clients concentrative meditation where they focus on one thing," she said. "I also teach mindful meditation where people try to cultivate a sense of awareness of what is happening in their body. For example, what thoughts pass through your mind as

"There is the expectation that we need to be available and informed all the time. This expectation wasn't in place 10 years ago."

- Kate Love

you sit quietly? What sounds do you hear? What emotions do you feel? The work comes when you notice these sensations and then let them go."

A 2011 study by the Association for Psychological Science showed that meditation can be effective in boosting memory and concentration. Settings for this mind-body practice now range from workplaces to classrooms.

Amber Wilson, a fourth grade teacher, guides her students in mindfulness meditation practices most afternoons during the school year. "A lot of my students have difficult home environments which affects their ability to concentrate in school," she said. "When I stop them between subjects and let them chill out a little bit, it really makes a difference in their performance, even after just five minutes."

Meditation can also help with addiction treatment, says Warren Schelter, Ph.D., a psychologist with a practice in Alexandria. "It can instill a sense of calm and overall wellbeing," he said. "Anxiety and depression often go hand-in hand with addiction, which is why a calming meditation practice might be effective for some people."

Schelter underscores the fact that meditation should not replace traditional medicine. "I would recommend that anyone experiencing symptoms of mental or physical illness see a medical doctor first," she said. "Mediation should work in conjunction with traditional medicine, not in place of it."

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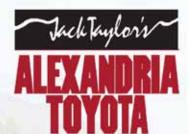


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